

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) End connection for a sling, a cord or a rope for fastening or carrying loads, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising it has two ends ~~(1, 2)~~ of a belt-like and/or rope-like article, of which one end ~~(1)~~ runs out into at least one first end part ~~(3)~~, and the other end ~~(2)~~ runs out into at least one second end part ~~(4)~~, ~~that wherein~~ the first and second end parts ~~(3, 4)~~ are present entirely or at least partially overlapping one another, ~~that wherein~~ a connection of the end parts ~~(3, 4)~~ at one connecting site ~~(5)~~ thickening of less than or equal to 50% arises, and wherein the end parts ~~(3, 4)~~ yield increased strength.

2. (Original) End connection as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end parts ~~(3, 4)~~ are made wider than the width of the ends ~~(1, 2)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) End connection as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the end parts ~~(3, 4)~~ have the same or different lengths.

4. (Currently Amended) End connection as claimed in ~~one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein each of the end parts ~~(3, 4)~~ has different thicknesses, the total of the thicknesses corresponding to the thickness of the corresponding end ~~(1, 2)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) End connection as claimed in ~~one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein the ends ~~(1, 2)~~ consist of a belt-like article and the end parts ~~(3, 4)~~ are sewn, cemented, thermally bonded or ultrasonically bonded at the connection site ~~(5)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) End connection as claimed in ~~one of claims 4-5~~ claim 1, wherein the belt-like article is a plastic-coated belt or a plastic or fabric belt.

7. (Currently Amended) End connection as claimed in ~~one of claims 4-5~~ claim 1, wherein one end (4) consists of a belt-like article and the other end (2) consists of a rope-like article.

8. (Original) End connection as claimed in claim 7, wherein the rope-like article is a cord or a rope and runs out in a single end part (2).

9. (Currently Amended) End connection as claimed in ~~one of claims 4-8~~ claim 1, wherein the belt-like or rope-like article consists of a combination of materials which differ with respect to elasticity, stretching behavior, cutting resistance, tear resistance, and wear resistance, by which there is an optimum of tensile strength, wear and cutting resistance at low weight.

10. (Currently Amended) End connection as claimed in ~~one of claims 4-9~~ claim 1, wherein the belt-like or rope-like article consists of a combination of high strength fibers of Zylon, Vectran, PBO, Dyneema, Kevlar, Aramid, polyester, and polyamide.

11. (Currently Amended) End connection as claimed in ~~one of claims 4-10~~ claim 1, wherein the belt-like or rope-like article consists of an extruded, cast or pressed plastic.

12. (Currently Amended) Use of the end connection ~~as claimed in one of claims 1-11~~ claim 11 in sports climbing.

13. (Currently Amended) Use of the end connection as claimed in ~~one of claims 1-11~~ claim 11 as a climbing sling or as a stop sling in the industrial safety domain.

14. (Currently Amended) Use of the end connection as claimed in ~~one~~  
~~of claims 1-11~~ claim 11 as a connecting element in sailing, surfing and water sports.

15. (Currently Amended) Use of the end connection as claimed in ~~one~~  
~~of claims 1-11~~ claim 11 as an end connection element of a cord or a rope.